



*Public Notice Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02*

## **ARIZONA MUNICIPAL WATER USERS ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT BOARD**

### **MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA**

***Wednesday, September 10, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.***

**This meeting will be held as a Hybrid meeting.  
Attendance in person is welcomed; Others may join via Zoom.**

**Access this [Link](#) to join via Zoom. Meeting ID 815 3667 5632**  
(Option to join by phone: 602-753-0140, same Meeting ID as above)

#### **A. Call to Order**

#### **B. General Business—Items for Discussion and Possible Action**

1. Approval of the Minutes for the August 13, 2025 Meeting
2. Next Meeting Date: October 8, 2025 @ 10:00 a.m.
3. Post-2026 Colorado River Operations
4. Lessons from 2019 Drought Contingency Plan
5. Post-2026 Conservation Efforts

#### **C. Member Reports**

#### **D. Executive Director's Report**

#### **E. Future Agenda Items**

#### **F. Executive Session**

Pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38.431.03.A.3, the AMWUA Board of Directors may vote to convene in Executive Session to discuss and consult for legal advice with AMWUA's legal counsel regarding HBACA v ADWR CV2025-002623.

#### **G. Adjournment**

\*The order of the agenda may be altered or changed by the AMWUA Management Board. Members of the AMWUA Management Board may attend in person or by internet conferencing.

More information about AMWUA public meetings is available online at [www.amwua.org/what-we-do/public-meetings](http://www.amwua.org/what-we-do/public-meetings), or by request.

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## **Arizona Municipal Water Users Association**



**MANAGEMENT BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
August 13, 2025  
HYBRID MEETING**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Kirk Beaty, Avondale, Chair  
David Burks, Peoria, Vice Chair  
John Knudson, Chandler  
Jessica Marlow, Gilbert  
Mark Roye, Glendale  
Barbara Chappell, Goodyear  
Chris Hassert, Mesa  
Troy Hayes, Phoenix  
Gretchen Baumgardner, Scottsdale  
Tara Ford, Tempe

**AMWUA STAFF PRESENT**

Michelle Barclay, AMWUA	Tyenesha Fields, AMWUA	Sheri Trapp, AMWUA
Paul Bergelin, AMWUA	Warren Tenney, AMWUA	

**A. Call to Order**

Kirk Beaty called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**B. General Business – Items for Discussion and Possible Action**

1. Approval of the Minutes from the June 11, 2025, Meeting

Upon a motion made by David Burks, and a second made by Gretchen Baumgardner, the AMWUA Management Board unanimously approved the June 11, 2025 meeting minutes. minutes.

2. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, September 10th, at 10:00 a.m.

3. Post-2026 Colorado River Operations

Warren Tenney, Executive Director, provided an update on the Colorado River, noting that related issues will remain a major focus over the next 16 months. He highlighted 2026 as a critical deadline for establishing new operating guidelines but cautioned that current developments are increasing uncertainty rather than providing the desired clarity for post-2026. This uncertainty poses challenges for water providers in preparing infrastructure and communicating with residents and elected officials.

Paul Bergelin, Water Policy Advisor, reviewed the history, hydrology, and current challenges of the Colorado River. He explained that the 1922 Colorado River Compact allocated 7.5 million acre-feet (MAF) annually to both the Upper and Lower Basin states, with an additional 1.5 MAF granted to Mexico under the 1944 treaty—creating a total allocation of 16.5 MAF. However, these allocations were based on unusually wet years, with the long-term average flow being closer to 14.6 MAF. Since 2000, the flow is only about 12.4 MAF. Future projections suggest flows could drop to 9.5–12 MAF, underscoring that the river is both stressed and over-allocated.

Currently, total system storage is 22.7 billion acre-feet, down from last year. Lake Mead and Lake Powell are at only 31–32% capacity, with elevations of 1,054 feet and similarly low levels, respectively. Despite a snowpack at 92% of the 30-year median this year, inflows to Lake Powell are forecast at just 52% of average—demonstrating that soil moisture, not just snowpack, is now a key predictor of inflow.

Mr. Bergelin emphasized that this hydrologic reality poses questions about compliance with the Colorado River Compact, which requires the Upper Basin to deliver 82.5 MAF to the Lower Basin over a rolling 10-year period. Deficiency could occur by 2026 or 2027, depending on Lake Powell releases. Such a shortfall could trigger legal disputes over the deliveries legally required by the Compact.

Mr. Bergelin stated the current storage of the Colorado River system is significantly reduced, with Lake Mead and Lake Powell at about one-third capacity. Hydrology trends indicate growing uncertainty in meeting Compact obligations, raising the risk of legal disputes.

Mr. Tenney stated that negotiations between the Upper and Lower Basin states are continuing but have not reached significant consensus. While ongoing talks are positive, finding a compromise is becoming less likely. The federal government has set a November 11 deadline for an agreement, after which it is prepared to take unilateral action to determine river operations.

Mr. Tenney explained that according to the Lower Basin States Alternative, if total Colorado River system storage is between 58% and 38%, the Lower Basin would see a 1.5 MAF reduction. Arizona would bear the largest share (760,000 acre-feet), followed by California (440,000 acre-feet) and Nevada (50,000 acre-feet), with Mexico taking a reduction of 250,000 acre-feet. For Arizona, if this reduction is placed solely on Central

Arizona Project municipal and industrial users would see a 20% reduction, resulting in cuts deeper than a Tier 3 shortage under the current Drought Contingency Plan.

Uncertainty about Colorado River operations including greater reductions could occur if poor hydrology continues are compounding existing challenges such as stressed aquifers, water quality concerns (including PFAS), the need for new supplies, and rising infrastructure costs. These conditions require cities to prepare for rapid adaptation to significant water cuts, despite uncertainty about future Colorado River deliveries.

Mr. Tenney acknowledged the many uncertainties facing the Colorado River but emphasized that they also present opportunities. He highlighted the need to continue to elevate awareness of water security's economic importance with the legislature and the public. Strengthening partnerships, especially among Central Arizona Project users, will be important along with increasing self-reliance by continuing to invest in water resources and infrastructure to offset reductions. He also stressed expanding water conservation as a tool for demand management. Due to the uncertainty, it is important to ensure water is considered in all community and state decisions. Despite the challenges, he expressed confidence that proactive planning and collaboration can maintain water security for Arizona's communities.

#### **C. Member Reports**

Troy Hayes announced that this was his final AMWUA meeting as City of Phoenix Water Services Director, as he will retire Friday after 24 years.

#### **D. Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Tenney reported that the Salt River Project and Verde watershed had a poor winter and monsoon season, leaving the Salt River Project reservoir system at 57% capacity compared to 82% last year.

He said ADWR confirmed existing designations remain valid while ADWR reviews the cities redesignation applications, a process that has been slowed due to ADWR's workload and prioritization of ADAWS applications.

Mr. Tenney announced that AMWUA's sponsorship with KTAR will launch next week, featuring branding on KTAR's Water Watch webpage and eight planned articles over the next year to increase visibility and provide timely water information. Also, a regional communications meeting will be held tomorrow to update communication staff and PIOs on post-2026 Colorado River issues, CAP's outreach, and Phoenix Water Services' messaging on advanced water purification.

Finally, Mr. Tenney offered best wishes to Troy Hayes on his retirement from the City of Phoenix and appreciation for being on the Management Board.

**E. Future Agenda Items**

John Knudson said he would like a briefing on the lawsuit filed by the Home Builders Association against the Arizona Department of Water Resources because of that lawsuit's implications to municipal water providers and the Assured Water Supply Program.

**F. Adjournment**

Mr. Beaty adjourned the meeting at 10:42 am.

## AMWUA MANAGEMENT BOARD

### INFORMATION SUMMARY

September 10, 2025

## Post-2026 Colorado River Operations

### ANNUAL PLAN REFERENCE

#### Colorado River Transition

Assist, monitor, and coordinate the impacts of reduced Colorado River water to ensure our members' interests are forefront.

*Strategic Plan: Facilitate our Strength in Numbers, Collaborate and Advocate for Solutions, Safeguard Water Supplies, Prepare for Impacts of Drought & Shortage, Minimize Financial Impact*

### SUMMARY

Last month, the US Bureau of Reclamation announced that Lake Mead would continue to be at a Tier 1 shortage in 2026. More importantly, next year is the last year for the Colorado River system to be managed under the current 2007 interim guidelines. There is no certainty for how the river will be managed beginning in 2027. The seven Basin States continue to meet but there is no indication of consensus between the Upper and Lower Basins. The United States has told the Basin States that if they have not reached an agreement by November 11, 2025, Reclamation will move forward with an alternative. Plus, the river's hydrology continues to confirm that the Colorado River is producing less water. This year's projected unregulated runoff inflow into Lake Powell is 50% despite the snowpack in the upper Colorado River Basin being nearly average this winter.

AMWUA staff will provide an update about the Colorado River negotiations and hydrology.

### RECOMMENDATION

The AMWUA Management Board is requested to ask questions and discuss the Colorado River situation.

## **AMWUA MANAGEMENT BOARD**

### ***INFORMATION SUMMARY***

**September 10, 2025**

## **Lessons from the Drought Contingency Plan**

### **ANNUAL PLAN REFERENCE**

#### **Colorado River Transition**

Assist, monitor, and coordinate the impacts of reduced Colorado River water to ensure our members' interests are forefront.

*Strategic Plan: Facilitate our Strength in Numbers, Collaborate and Advocate for Solutions, Safeguard Water Supplies, Prepare for Impacts of Drought & Shortage, Minimize Financial Impact*

### **SUMMARY**

As Arizona faces Colorado River reductions after 2026, it can be useful to revisit the development of the 2019 Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) and how DCP shortage reductions were both implemented and mitigated in Arizona. AMWUA staff will present an overview about DCP, and the lessons learned.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The AMWUA Management Board is requested to ask questions and discuss the Drought Contingency Plan.

## AMWUA MANAGEMENT BOARD

### INFORMATION SUMMARY

September 10, 2025

## Post-2026 Conservation Efforts

### ANNUAL PLAN REFERENCE

#### Conservation & Demand Management

Excel as a leader in water conservation by effectively strategizing with members on program development and implementation and coordinating awareness about conservation efforts to enhance sustainable water resources.

*Strategic Plan: Facilitate our Strength in Numbers, Educate – Excel as an Expert and Resource, Collaborate and Advocate for Solutions, Safeguard Water Supplies, Strengthen Groundwater Management, Prepare for Impacts of Drought & Shortage*

#### Colorado River Transition

Assist, monitor, and coordinate the impacts of reduced Colorado River water to ensure our members' interests are forefront.

- Facilitate opportunities to assist and synchronize continuing preparation for less Colorado River water.

*Strategic Plan: Facilitate our Strength in Numbers, Collaborate and Advocate for Solutions, Safeguard Water Supplies, Prepare for Impacts of Drought & Shortage, Minimize Financial Impact*

### SUMMARY

AMWUA staff has been working with its members' conservation teams to identify conservation actions that would be beneficial with Colorado River reductions after 2026. AMWUA staff will share the initial progress on this effort.

### RECOMMENDATION

The AMWUA Management Board is requested to ask questions and discuss AMWUA's conservation efforts.